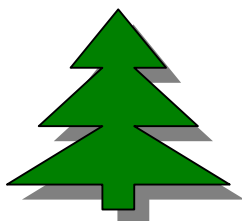


HF HAPPENNINGS 281

December 07

South African Radio League Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Frohe Weihnachten und ein gluckliches neues Jahr
Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee
Gezegende Kerstfeest en Gelukkige Nieuwe Jaar
'n Geseënde Kersfees en 'n Voorspoedige Nuwe Jaar
Wang boen Krisnetie nanga wang boen Njoeg Jari
Bon Natale e Bon Anu Noevu
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
Srecan bozic i srecan novo godina
Vesele Vianoce a Statny Novy Rok

Bouvet Island 3Y, (AN-002)

Petrus, ZS6GCM, is expected to be active as 3Y/ZS6GCM from Bouvet Island, probably for the next three months. He is with a five-member team on the island and is their medic. The operator does have a vertical antenna for 40/20/15/10 meters but no amplifier. He is also a newly licensed amateur and has no experience in pile-ups. So, please go easy on him. Activity will be during his spare time only.

December

25 – Christmas Day
26 – Family Day
31 – Closing of the 2007 CQ DX Marathon

January

1 – New Years Day; Start of 2008 CQ DX Marathon
7 – NARC open
9 Inland Schools open
12 & 13 Hunting Lions in the Air
16 Coastal Schools open
18 – 20 PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
21 SARL-HMO competition closes
26 BACAR meeting at NARC at 11:00 CAT
26 & 27 CQ 160 metre CW Contest; UBA SSB DX Contest

60 m permission extended in Norway

Tom, LA4LN, the NRRL HF Traffic Manager reports that the Norwegian Posts and Telecommunications Authority recently issued an extension for the 60 m permission until 31 December 2012 for Norwegian club stations. NRRL had applied for, that the permission should be extended to all Norwegian radio amateurs instead of only club stations, but this extension was not granted. Norwegian club stations have permission to use 8 channels in the 60 m band (plus 2 more for emergency use).

Details of the Norwegian 60 m permission can be seen at <http://folk.uio.no/tomvs/la4ln/5mnorway.rtf>.

There is also an article Tom wrote for the Norwegian journal "Amateurradio" about 60 m propagation. It can be found at <http://folk.uio.no/tomvs/la4ln/5MHzWEB.htm>. The text is in Norwegian, but the ECOF - MUF diagrams (for spring propagation) should be universal.

On 60 m Tom is active from the club station LA1V (QSL to LA4LN direct; LA1V is not a member of the QSL bureau system).



Is a New Solar Cycle About to Begin?

The solar physics community is abuzz this week. No, there have not been any great eruptions or solar storms. The source of the excitement is a modest knot of magnetism that popped over the sun's eastern limb on 11 December. Solar physicist David Hathaway, of the Marshall Space Flight Centre, said that it may not look like much, but this patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. For more than a year, the sun has been experiencing a lull in activity, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23, which peaked with many furious storms in 2000 - 2003. "Solar minimum is upon us," he says.

Visit http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/14dec_excitement.htm?list80789 for the full story.

Take part in the High Speed Morse contest

Attention all those who can send and receive good Morse at high speed. The sixth IARU Region 1 High Speed Telegraphy championships are being held at Pordenone in Italy between 23 and 27 April 2008. More information on this event is available on the web at www.hst2008.org.

African DX

Islands around Africa do not count for the SARL All Africa Award

Madeira Island, CT3. Luis, CT3EE will activate CT9EPC, a special call sign for the EPC (European PSK Club) members on Madeira Island (AF-014, DIP MA-001, WLOTA L-0053), between 22 and 28 December. Activity will be mainly on 40 and 20 metres because of propagation. The call sign CT9EPC is used only on the digital modes and the main objective is to have more activity on these modes. QSL direct to CT3EE (see QRZ.com) and not to the bureau (he is not a member of the Portuguese National QSL bureau).

Sierra Leone, 9L. Zbig, SP7BTB is active as 9L1BTB while on a UN mission here. QSL to home call.

Namibia, V5. V55SRT has been active on 17 metres using RTTY around 20:35 UTC. QSL via IZ8EDJ.

Namibia, V5 (Topband Activity). Uli, DJ2YA, has announced that Frank, V51AS, will be active on Top band on 1826 kHz +/-, 22 and 23 December.

Western Sahara, S0. Fernando, EA1BT, has been active as S05A over the past few days on 40 and 20 metres SSB. His length of stay is not known. QSL via EA1BT.

Republic Of Congo, TN. Phil, 9Q1TB, showed up this past weekend as TN/9Q1TB/p on 17 and 20 metres SSB. Gabe, KP4BJD, who talked to him, was told that Phil is only running 30 watts and a "low profile antenna" from Impfondo (his QTH) on the bank of the Ubangi River. He is expected to return to Kinshasa this coming Tuesday. QSL via SM5DJZ.

Burkina Faso, XT. Michael is active as XT2WC and is here until 5 January. He is generally active on 20 metres between 08:00 to 10:00 UTC. QSL via F1I QH.



Tanzania, 5H. Pat, W8FV, will be returning to Mwanza sometime this week (possibly 20 December) and is expected to be active as 5H9PD until he returns stateside 12 January. Activity will be mostly on CW on 40 - 10 metres depending on propagation. He is going to try 80 metres but with only just 100 watts, and he does not know how successful he will be. He will also be active on PSK31. QSL via his home call sign.

Senegal, 6W and Guinea-Bissau, J5. Peter, HA3AUI reports that he will be leaving for Africa just after the New Year 2008. During the period of 15 January and 15 April he will be active from Senegal as 6W2SC and from Guinea-Bissau as J5UAP. Activity will be mainly digital modes, with some SSB, on 160 - 10 m from 6W, 30 - 10 m from J5. This will be a spare time, but long operation. QSL via HA3AUI, direct or by the bureau.

Lesotho DXpedition 2008. Filip, ON4AEO and Kath, ON7BK together with Secunda ARC members, Gert, ZS6GC, Sid, ZS5AYC, Lucas, ZS6ACT, Tom, ZS6TMO, Adele, ZR6AP, Steffi and Elna will be active from the Kingdom of Lesotho as 7P8FC between 27 March 27 and 1 April. Expected frequencies are: SSB - 3.780, 7.063, 14.185, 18.136, 21.290, 24.930 and 28.490 MHz; RTTY - 3.590, 7.040, 14.084, 18.104, 21.084, 24.924 and 28.084 MHz; and PSK - 7.038, 14.072, 18.102, 21.072, 24.922 and 28.122 MHz. The QSL route is via ON4CJK, direct or bureau. Further information and updates are available at www.7p8fc.be/

SARL - HMO Beacon Competition - Did Your Copy The @ Sign?

First reports in the SARL-HMO beacon competition have been received. The competition is about decoding the message that has been imbedded in the signals of three of the beacons ZS6SRL, ZS2LAW and ZS1HMO. Full details of the competition, which runs until 21 January 2008, can be found on the SARL web at www.sarl.org.za, click on services, and select beacon Project.

The beacons have their own QSL address bcn@sarl.org.za.

Have you wondered how the @ sign in the email address is sent in Morse code? A few years ago Paul Rinaldo of the IARU asked the ITU to recognize a new Morse character for the @ sign. It consists of the letters A and C sent as one character with no space between them, ie ditdahdahditdahdit.

APRS takes off on HF in South Africa

HF APRS is taking off in South Africa. Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ, reports that a number of stations are active and are tracking other amateurs travelling around the country.

The advantage of HF is the longer range. Shaun Rudling, ZR5S, runs a station on behalf of the Midlands ARC using the call sign ZS5PMB-4. Henry, ZS1AAZ and Chris, ZS1TX, operate a station in the Cape.

HF APRS is the ideal mode to track yachts at sea, which would compliment the maritime mobile net, by being able plot their positions on a 24-hour basis.

"We are in the initial stages of HF operations in the RSA, but I hope more stations will join us so that we can cover the whole coastline of the RSA and Namibia and Mozambique," Henry said. For more on APRS www.sarl.org.za, members only pages.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 December 2007



Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

00:01 UTC 15 Dec to 23:59 UTC 1 Jan

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member No, name and state, province or country; on-Members: Serial No, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS No, name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2008

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NFOJ, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at:

<http://arlhs.com/LCL-2007-guidelines.html>

NCCC CW Sprint

03:30 - 04:00 UTC 21 Dec

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 December 2007

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

www.hornucopia.com/3830score/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.htm

Russian Digital and SSTV Contest

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 22 Dec

Mode: SSTV, Any narrow band digital mode

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band

Exchange: MSSTVS Members: RST and member number; non-Members: RST and QSO No

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each MSSTVS member once per band

Each DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 January 2008

E-mail logs to: [rusdigital\[at\]bk\[dot\]ru](mailto:rusdigital@bk.ru)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://mixw-contest.narod.ru/Files/RusDigital.htm>

RAEM Contest

02:00 - 09:59 UTC 23 Dec

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band (Low/High); Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL

Max operating hours: 8 hours

Exchange: Serial No and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N=North, S=South, W=West, O=East (e.g. 57N 85O)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station:

100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional

Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1.1

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 8 January 2008

E-mail logs to: [rw4wr\[at\]srr\[dot\]ru](mailto:rw4wr@srr.ru)

Mail logs to: RAEM Contest, PO Box 3945, Izhevsk 426011, Russia

Find rules at:

www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/88.html

Next Week's Contests

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01Z 15 Dec to 23:59 UTC 1 Jan



SKCC Sprint, 01:00 UTC-03:00 UTC 26 Dec
DARC Christmas Contest, 08:30 UTC-10:59 UTC 26 Dec
NCCC CW Sprint, 03:30 UTC-04:00 UTC 28 Dec
RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 UTC-23:59 UTC 29 Dec
Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 29 Dec to 15:00 UTC 30 Dec
Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 15:00 UTC 29 Dec to 15:00 UTC 30 Dec

New Award Available

Paco, EA5OL, informs that there is a new award available. Details of the new "WORLDLAKES Award" can be found on the Web site at <http://worldlakes.info>

New DXpedition Videos Available

James Brooks, 9V1YC, has released two new DXpeditions videos. They are the 2007 BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition and the 2006 ZL8R Raoul (Kermadec) Island DXpedition videos. These videos will provide a look at a superb behind the scenes (as well as dangerous and successful) DXpeditions. If these videos are anything like James' previous videos (which were great!), they will be a great holiday gift for the DXer in your family or DX friend, or even for your DX club's viewing. Videos are only \$25 US. These two new videos (and his previous videos) are available at <http://www.dxvideos.com>

CQ DX Marathon

The CQ DX Marathon is a yearlong DX hunt, with participants competing to see who can work the greatest number of countries ("entities") and CQ zones over the course of a full year, then starting again at zero at the beginning of the next year. This year's Marathon began at 00:00 UTC on 1 January and will end at 23:59 UTC on 31 December. It is now time to start gathering your country and zone contacts made in 2007, and enter them onto the official DX Marathon score sheet available at www.dxmarathon.com. All logs must be submitted no later than 31 January 2008. The 2008 Marathon will start at 00:00 UTC on 1 January.

INDEXA Has New Web Look

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, President of the International DX Association wants to alert DXers that the organisations recently revised Web site now has additional features and functions. This includes such items as the quarterly newsletter in PDF format.

The International DX Association is an amateur radio organisation dedicated to working DX and making DX possible. Its home in cyberspace is www.indexa.org (INDEXA)

"I only do ham radio on days ending with y"

Emergency Frequencies IARU Reg 1 - 21.360 - 18.160 - 14.300 -
7.060 - 3.760 MHz

